and wherein the carrier is a sol-gel derived silica xerogel, the xerogel is derived from a tetraalkoxysilane and that part of the tetraalkoxysilane is replaced by an organomodified alkoxysilane.

9. (New) The composition of claim 8, wherein said tetraalkoxysilane is tetraethoxysilane (TEOS), and said organomodified alkoxysilane is an alkylsubstituted alkoxysilane.

10. (New) The composition of claim 9, wherein said alkylsubstituted alkoxysilane is a member selected from the group consisting of methyltriethoxysilane (METES), dimethyldiethoxysilane (DMDES) and ethyltriethoxysilane (ETES).

11. (New) The composition of claim 8, wherein said biologically active agent is heparin and which is present in an amount of 5 to 30 weight percent, calculated on the air dried xerogel.

12. (New) A method for the preparation of a composition of claim 8, comprising

a) hydrolysing an alkoxysilane and an organomodified alkoxysilane in the presence of a catalyst,

b) optionally adjusting the pH to a value suitable for the biologically active agent,

c) adding the biologically active agent,

d) allowing the hydroxysilane to polymerize, and optionally

e) removing water and alcohol formed in the hydrolyzation from the mixture.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the alkoxysilane is a tetraalkoxysilane.

14. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the organomodified alkoxysilane is an alkylsubstituted alkoxysilane.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said alkylsubstituted alkoxysilane is at least one member of the group consisting of methyltriethoxysilane (METES), dimethyldiethoxysilane (DMDES) and ethyltriethoxysilane (ETES).

16. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein nitric acid or acetic acid is used as a catalyst.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please insert the attached Abstract into the application after the claims.